

Learning to be Deaf—Learning to be non-Deaf: Where do “I” Fit?

This workshop will cover the findings of dissertation research regarding enculturation into the Deaf community including specific markers determining membership. Some of the unexpected results included findings regarding the role of non-Deaf people in the community and enculturation, and from this research a new model of the ASL/Deaf community was created. If you have wondered, “Where do I fit?” as an interpreter, colleague, relative and/or friend of Deaf people, you will find this presentation beneficial. This will be an anthropological presentation and discussion.

Presenter: Dr. Barbara Garrett

Barbara Garrett has been interpreting for more than 25 years working in a wide variety of settings. She did not set out to be a sign language interpreter. Relationships with Deaf friends led her into a variety of learning experiences, trainings, and workshops. Her specialties are Medical, Legal, and Educational interpreting. She has been an interpreter educator for 20 years and is currently the Director of the ASL Studies and Interpreting Program with full Professor Status at William Woods University in Fulton, MO where she implemented the four-year degree in 1993 and was instrumental in establishing the MO Statewide Interpreters Conference now in its 20th year. She has had the honor of working as an interpreter in almost every type of setting in four different US states and VRS/VRI. She holds a Master’s Degree in Deaf Education and a Ph.D. in Cross-Cultural Studies from Biola University in La Mirada, CA. She is passionate about being a “change agent” and seeing more doors of opportunity open for Deaf people even if it means stepping aside to see it happen. She is married to Michael and they have two daughters, Mazen Grace (9) and Miracle Joy (4).